

J. Lockhart

OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS
AND
INTERESTING PARTICULARS
OF THE
GLORIOUS VICTORY
OBTAINED OVER THE
FRENCH FLEET,

ON SUNDAY, JUNE 1, 1794.

BY THE
BRITISH FLEET,

Under the Command of
ADMIRAL EARL HOWE:

ILLUSTRATED WITH AN
ACCURATE ENGRAVING OF THE MANŒUVERING AND
LINE OF BATTLE OF THE TWO FLEETS ON
THAT MEMORABLE DAY.

FOURTH EDITION.

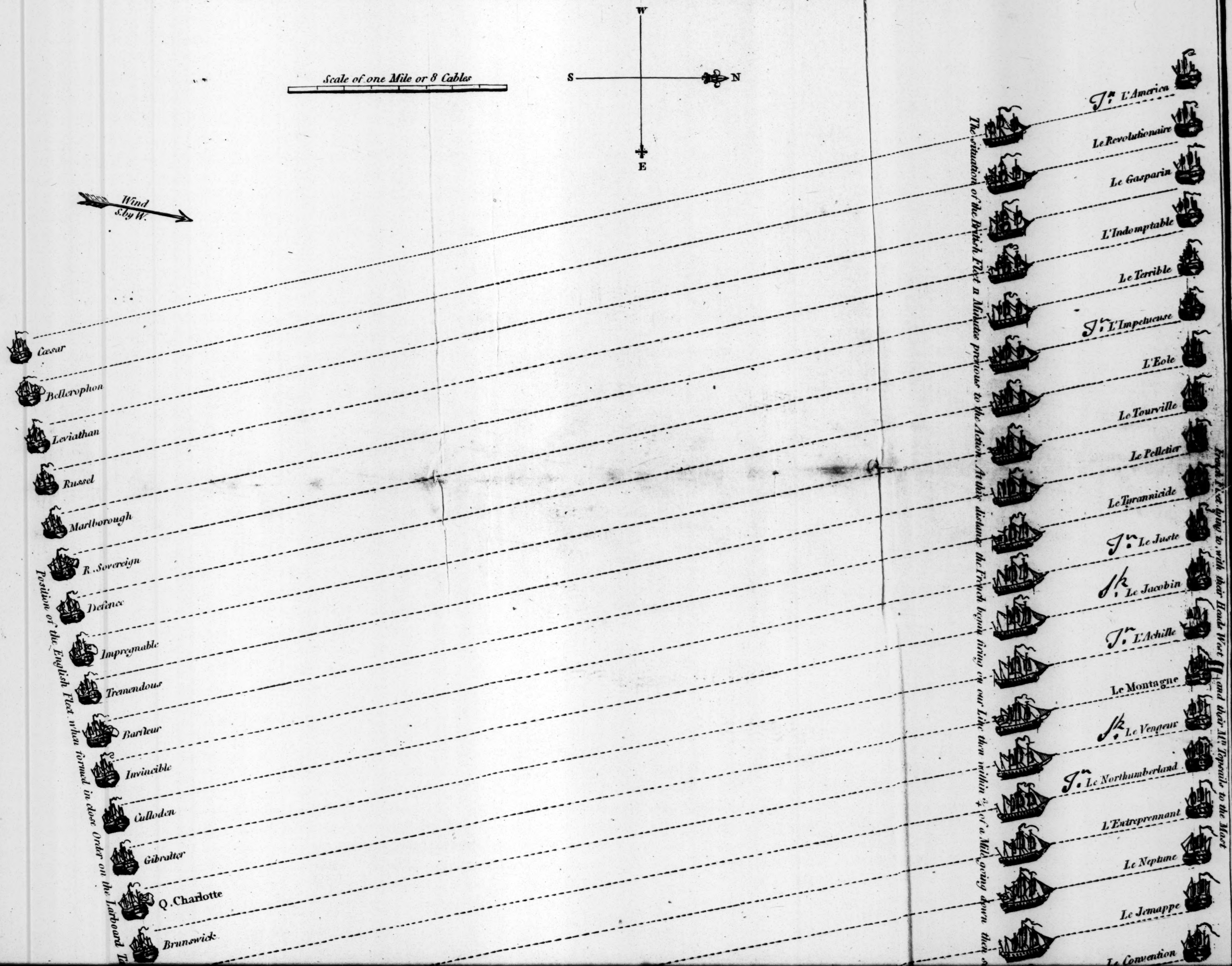
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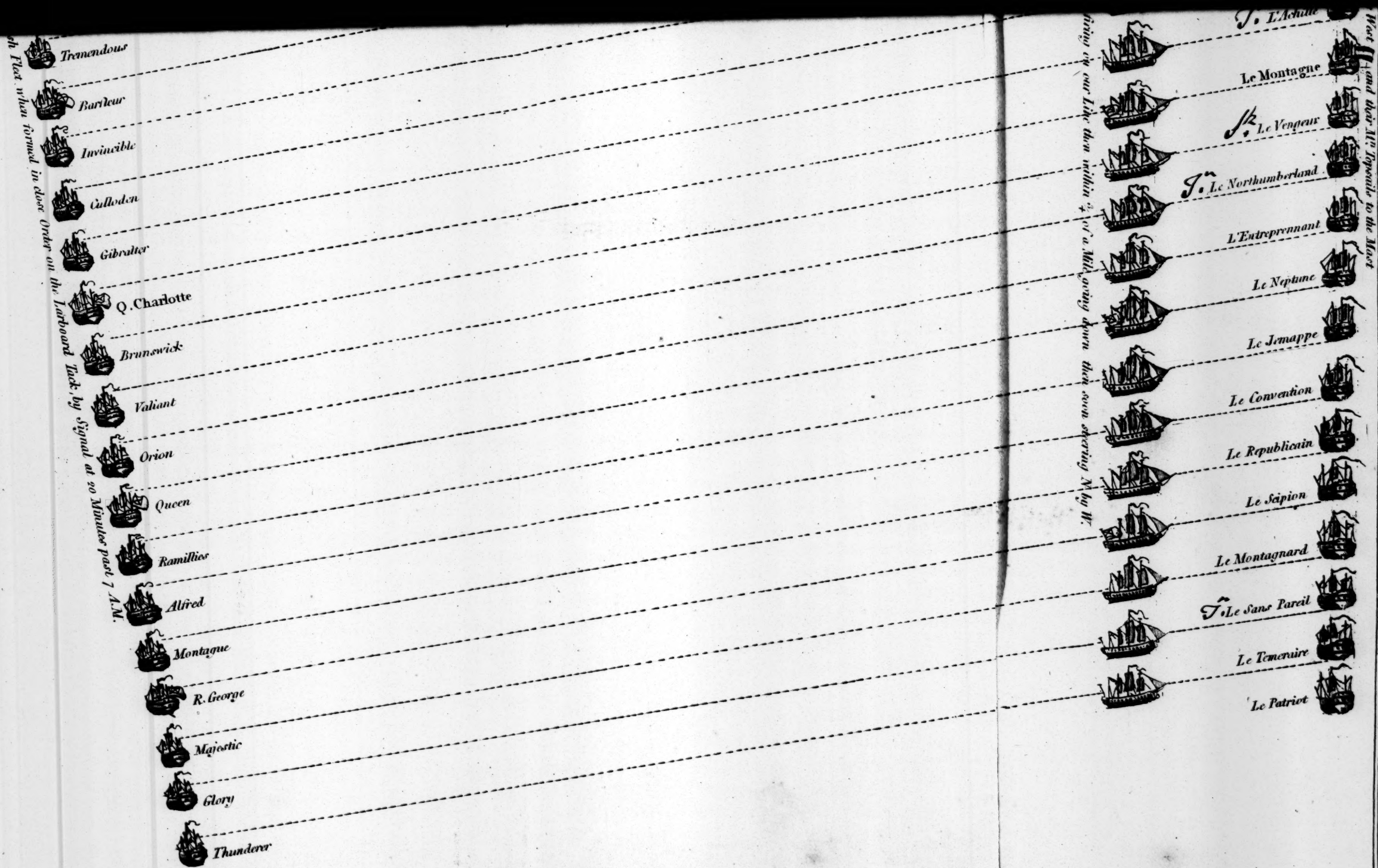
PRINTED FOR J. DEBRET, OPPOSITE BURLINGTON HOUSE,
PICCADILLY.

1794.

For the MORNING HERALD.

A Sketch of the Manœuvre on the Morning of the 1st of June, preparatory to the Engagement on that Day.





P. Woodthorpe sc. 27. Letter Lane Fleet Street.

Published as the Act directs, June 28. 1794.

ILLUSTRATIVE REMARKS.

JUNE 1.

FLAG OFFICERS OF BRITISH DIVISIONS.

Flag Ships.

— FLAGS, and where hoisted.

REAR-ADMIRAL PASLEY.

BELLEROPHON,

— White at the Mizzen.

ADMIRAL GRAVES.

The enemy had fallen a good deal to leeward in the night, and could only be seen at day-light from the mast-heads of the English fleet, bearing North.

At 18 minutes past four, A. M. Lord Howe, observing that the ships a-head, and in the van had fore-reached upon the centre, made the signal to close to the centre; at half past four he made the signal to close to the van.

which, every ship in the line put up her helm and steered large, increasing and shortening sail occasionally preserve a perfect line a-breast, that every ship might conence the action as nearly together as possible. At 50 mins past nine the Admiral made the signal to engage close; at 55 minutes past nine for the fleet to make more sail; at 10 minutes past nine the English fleet did not return for near 10 minutes unning still nearer to them, when the whole of the British ships opened

line keeping so very close together; the sea was high on the morning of the action, and prevented the ships firing their lower deck guns to the greatest advantage.

The above is a very correct sketch of the two fleets in coming into action; more cannot be done. It must easily be conceived, that after the first 20 minutes, a very imperfect line was observed on either side, all soon became disorder, and irregular fighting.

Soon after the smoke cleared away, between two and three o'clock P. M. the following English ships appeared in the

Montague

R. George

Majestic

Glory

Thunderer

Le Temeraire

Le Patriot

P. Woodthorpe, 50. 27 Fetter Lane Fleet Street.

Published as the Act directs, June 28. 1794.

ILLUSTRATIVE REMARKS.

FLAG OFFICERS OF BRITISH DIVISIONS.

Flag Ships.

— FLAGS, and where hoisted.

REAR-ADMIRAL PASLEY.

BELLEROPHON, — White at the Mizzen.

ADMIRAL GRAVES.

ROYAL SOVEREIGN, — Blue at the Main.

REAR-ADMIRAL CALDWALL.

IMPREGNABLE, — White at the Fore.

REAR-ADMIRAL BOWYER.

BARFLEUR, — Red at the Fore*.

ADMIRAL EARL HOWE.

QUEEN CHARLOTTE, — UNION at the Main.

REAR-ADMIRAL GARDNER.

QUEEN, — Blue at the Fore†.

VICE-ADMIRAL SIR ALEXANDER HOOD.

ROYAL GEORGE, — Red at the Main.

* Proper Flag, — Red at the Mizzen.

† Ditto ditto, — Blue at the Mizzen, but altered by way of distinction.

JUNE 1.

The enemy had fallen a good deal to leeward in the night, and could only be seen at day-light from the mast-heads of the English fleet, bearing North.

At 18 minutes past four, A. M. Lord HOWE, observing that the ships a-head, and in the van had fore-reached upon the centre, made the signal to close to the centre; at half past four he made the signal to close to the van.

At ten minutes past five, altered the course together to N. W. and at 48 minutes past six altered the course together to North, per signal. At 54 minutes past six, the signal for the van squadron to close the centre. At 20 minutes past seven, the Admiral made the signal for the fleet to come to the wind together on the larboard tack, and form the line; the French fleet being then in a compact line of battle to leeward, drawn up in good order, and very close to each other, their centre bearing N. by W. distant between five and six miles, Wind S. by W. At 48 minutes past seven, the Admiral made the signal that he meant to pass through the enemy's line and engage them to leeward, and made the signal for the van to close to the centre. At 46 minutes past eight he made the signal for each ship to prepare to engage the ship in the enemy's line opposed to her. At 56 minutes past eight, to execute the preceding signal; immediately on

which, every ship in the line put up her helm and steered large, increasing and shortening sail occasionally preserve a perfect line a-breast, that every ship might conence the action as nearly together as possible. At 50 mins past nine the Admiral made the signal to engage close; at 56 minutes past nine for the fleet to make more sail; at 11 time the enemy had began their fire nearly from van to rear which the English fleet did not return for near 10 minutes unning still nearer to them, when the whole of the British ships opened a tremendous fire upon the enemy, and continued close fight till half past 12; partial firing was kept up till 10 o'clock; but the great business was achieved in little more than two hours, when the French Admiral, in LE MONTAGNE, led his shattered fleet away to leeward, and succoured that disabled ships were in his reach, leaving the British yet complete masters of the sea, though in a very unmanageable condition; the Admiral then made the signal to form a line a-head and a-stern. Lord HOWE certainly went leeward of the French line, and would have been close alongside the MONTAGNE, had not his fore and main top masts gone over the side. The BRUNSWICK, and DEFENCE also passed through, with other ships that could not be so well noted, for the prodigious smoke. His Lordship's reason for going to get the lee-gage of the enemy was a judicious manœuvre, though it did not generally succeed, the enemy in many parts of their

line keeping so very close together; the sea was high on the morning of the action, and prevented the ships firing their lower deck guns to the greatest advantage.

The above is a very correct sketch of the two fleets in coming into action; more cannot be done. It must easily be conceived, that after the first 20 minutes, a very imperfect line was observed on either side, all soon became disorder, and irregular fighting.

Soon after the smoke cleared away, between two and three o'clock P. M. the following English ships appeared in the following disabled state, viz.

QUEEN CHARLOTTE, without her top masts.

ROYAL SOVEREIGN, fore and main top gallant masts gone.

ROYAL GEORGE, fore mast and two top masts ditto.

QUEEN, main mast and mizen top mast ditto.

INVINCIBLE, much damaged in all her masts.

ORION, main top mast gone.

GLORY, fore top mast, and fore yard gone.

MARLBOROUGH, all her lower masts gone by the board.

DEFENCE, ditto ditto.

BARFLEUR, fore mast, fore yard sprung, and two top masts wounded.

FRENCH SHIPS taken, and now in our possession.

LE SANS PAREIL 80 L'ACHILLE 74

L'IMPETUEUSE 80 LE NORTHUMBERLAND 74

L'AMERICA 74 LE JUSTE 80

Taken and sunk after—LE VENGEUR.

Sunk in action—LE JACOBIN.

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1870

1871

1872

1873

1874

1875

1876

1877

1878

INTRODUCTION.

THE late Victory gained over the French Fleet by Admiral Earl Howe, must be admitted to be the most brilliant and complete ever achieved in the Annals of the British Navy, whether we consider the numbers, force, and desperate resistance opposed by the Enemy, or the exertions of skill, valour, and humanity so eminently displayed on the part of our gallant Countrymen. To bring together in one point of view, all the particulars relative to an event so glorious to the arms, and so important to the interests of Great Britain, has been the object of the Editor in the following pages. The official accounts of the Action given in the Gazettes, he has been able to illustrate with a Drawing, which will, he trusts, challenge the approbation of the Public, and for the correctness of which he can pledge himself. In addition to what is contained in the official
accounts,

accounts, he has inserted some interesting particulars of the engagement, drawn from other sources; and these he has accompanied with a sketch of the conversation in both Houses of Parliament on returning thanks to Earl Howe; a conversation not less honourable to the Speakers than to the gallant Earl who was its subject, since it proves, that whatever difference may subsist in political opinion, all are equally disposed to concur in rejoicing in an event of such national advantage, and in paying the tribute due to so distinguished a character.

London and Portsmouth have likewise on this occasion severally come forward with their testimonies of gratitude and applause to the noble Earl; testimonies which, from their situation, they were particularly called upon to give, and in which, indeed, they may be supposed to represent the whole commerce and navigation of the kingdom.

There can be little doubt that the Public will be disposed favourably to receive this attempt to illustrate and record an event which has afforded to the present times a subject of such just great exultation, and which, he trusts, will ever live in the remembrance of posterity.

Piccadilly,
June 28, 1794.

OFFICIAL

The following is a List of the respective LINES of BATTLE of the BRITISH and FRENCH FLEETS on the First of June, 1794.

BRITISH LINE OF BATTLE.

Admiral Earl Howe, Commander-in-chief.

Ships Names.	Guns.	Commanders.	Remarks.	KILLED.		WOUNDED.		Total.
				Seamen.	Marines, or Soldiers.	Seamen.	Marines, or Soldiers.	
Cæsar	80	Capt. A. J. P. Molloy		18	—	37	—	55
Bellerophon	74	Rear-Adm. T. PASLEY	}	3	1	26	1	31
Leviathan	74	Capt. W. Hope		10	—	32	1	43
Russel	74	Capt. Lord H. S. Conway		7	1	24	2	34
Marlborough	74	Capt. J. W. Payne	Loft her fore-top-mast June 1.	24	5	76	14	119
Royal Sovereign	100	Capt. Hon. G. Berkeley	Totally dismasted, June 1.	11	3	39	5	58
Defence	74	Admiral T. GRAVES	}	14	4	29	10	57
Impregnable	90	Capt. H. Nicholls		7	—	24	—	31
Tremendous	74	Capt. J. Gambier		2	—	6	2	11
Culloden	74	Rear Adm. CALDWELL		2	—	5	—	7
Invincible	74	Capt. G. B. Westcott		9	5	21	10	45
Barfleur	98	Capt. J. Pigott	Lower-mast hurt May 28.	8	1	22	3	34
Gibraltar	80	Capt. J. Schomberg		1	1	12	—	14
Royal Charlotte	110	Rear-Adm. BOWYER	}	13	1	24	5	43
Brunswick	74	Capt. C. Collingwood		32	12	94	20	158
Valiant	74	Capt. T. Mackenzie	Loft her top-masts, June 1.	1	1	5	4	11
Orion	74	Adm. Earl HOWE		5	—	20	4	29
Queen	90	Capt. Sir R. Curtis	Loft her mizen-mast and parted company June 1.	30	6	57	10	103
Ramillies	74	Capt. Sir A. S. Douglas		2	—	7	—	9
Alfred	74	Capt. J. Harvey		—	—	6	2	8
Royal George	110	Capt. J. T. Duckworth	Loft her main-top-mast June 1.	18	2	63	9	92
Montague	74	Capt. J. Hutt		4	—	13	—	17
Majestic	74	Adm. Sir A. HOOD	Captain killed June 1.	3	—	4	1	8
*Glory	90	Capt. W. Domett	Loft her fore-mast June 1.	13	—	31	8	52
Thunderer	74	Capt. J. Montague		—	—	—	—	—
Total				227	44	677	111	1069

The Audacious parted company on the night of the 28th.

* The Glory is the flag ship of Rear-Admiral the Hon. Sir G. K. ELPHINSTONE, K. B. That gallant officer was not on board of her, but she was ably and bravely commanded by Capt. John Elphinstone.

BRITISH FRIGATES.

Frigates.	Guns.	Commanders.	Frigates.	Guns.	Commanders.
Niger	32	Capt. Hon. A. K. Legge	Venus	32	Capt. W. Brown.
Latona	38	Capt. Thornborough	Southampton	32	Capt. Hon. R. Forbes,
Phaeton	38	Capt. W. Bentinck	Aquilon	32	Capt. Hon. R. Stopford.
Pegasus	82	Capt. Barlow			

FRENCH ORDRE DE BATAILLE.

Naturel d'ou vient l'ordre de marche.

M. VILLERET Joyeuse, commandant.

M. BOUVET, second.

M. MILLOTT, troisieme.

Vaisseaux de Ligne.	Guns.	Remarks.
L'America	74	Taken June 1.
Le Revolutionnaire	110	Struck, but not taken possession of.
Le Gasparin	80	
L'Indomptable	80	
Le Terrible	110	
L'Impetueuse	74	Taken June 1.
Le Mutius Scævola	74	
L'Eole	74	
Le Tourville	80	
Le Pelletier	80	
Le Tyrannicide	74	
Le Juste	80	Taken June 1.
Le Montagne	110	
Le Jacobin	74	Sunk.
L'Achille	74	Taken June 1.
Le Vengeur	74	Taken and sunk June 1.
Le Northumberland	74	Taken ditto.
L'Entreprennant	74	
Le Neptune	80	
Le Jemappe	80	
Le Convention	80	
Le Republicain	120	
Le Scipion	74	
Le Montagnard	74	
Joined after the 29th of May.		
Le Sans Pareil	80	Taken June 1.
Le Temeraire	74	
Le Trajan	74	
Le Patriot	74	

FRENCH FRIGATES.

Frigates.	Guns.	Frigates.	Guns.	Frigates.	Guns.	Frigates.	Guns.
Le Brutus	50	La Diligente	Brig	La Seine	40	La Mutine	20
Couriere	Cutter	La Gentille	40	La Surprise	Cutr.	La Bellone	36
La Tamise	32	Le Jean Bart	20	Le Proserpine	40	La Furzete	
L'Atalante	40	L'Insurgente	36	Le Societe	18		

OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS, &c.

LONDON GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY,

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11.

Admiralty Office, June 10.

SIR ROGER CURTIS, First Captain to Admiral Earl HOWE, arrived this evening with a dispatch from his Lordship to Mr. Stephens, of which the following is a copy :

*Queen Charlotte at Sea, June 2, 1794.
Ushant, E. Half N. 140 Leagues.*

SIR,

Thinking it may not be necessary to make a more particular report of my proceedings with the fleet, for the present information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, I confine my communications chiefly, in this dispatch, to the occurrences when in presence of the Enemy yesterday.

Finding, on my return off Brest, on the 19th past, that the French fleet had, a few days before, put to sea ; and receiving, on the same evening, advices from Rear-Admiral Montague, I deemed it requisite to endeavour to form a junction with the Rear-Admiral as soon as possible, and proceeded immediately for the station on which he meant to wait for the return of the Venus.

But, having gained very credible intelligence, on the 21st of the same month, whereby I had reason to suppose the French fleet was then but a few leagues farther to the Westward, the course before steered was altered accordingly.

On the morning of the 28th the Enemy were discovered far to windward, and partial actions were engaged with them that evening and the next day.

The weather gage having been obtained, in the progress of the last mentioned day, and the fleet being in a situation for bringing the Enemy to close action the 1st instant, the ships bore up together for that purpose, between seven and eight o'clock in the morning.

The French, their force consisting of twenty-six ships of the line, opposed to his Majesty's fleet of twenty-five (the Audacious having parted company with the sternmost ship of the line, captured in the night of the 28th) waited for the action, and sustained the attack with their customary resolution.

In less than an hour after the close action commenced in the center, the French Admiral, engaged by the Queen Charlotte crowded off, and was followed by most of the ships of his van in condition to carry sail after him, leaving with us about ten or twelve of his crippled or totally dismasted ships, exclusive of one sunk in the engagement. The Queen Charlotte had then lost her fore-topmast, and the main-topmast fell over over the side very soon after.

The greater number of the other ships of the British fleet were, at this time, so much disabled or widely separated, and under such circumstances with respect to those ships of the Enemy in a state for action, and with which the firing was still continued, that two or three, even of their dismantled ships, attempting to get away under a spritsail singly, or smaller sail raised on the stump of the foremast, could not be detained.

Seven remained in our possession, one of which, however, sunk before the adequate assistance could be given to her crew; but many were saved.

The

The Brunswick having lost her mizen-mast in the action, and drifted to leeward of the French retreating ships, was obliged to put away large to the northward from them. Not seeing her chased by the Enemy in that predicament, I flatter myself she may arrive in safety at Plymouth. All the other twenty-four ships of his Majesty's fleet re-assembled later in the day; and I am preparing to return with them, as soon as the captured ships of the Enemy are secured, to Spithead.

The material injury to his Majesty's ships, I understand, is confined principally to their masts and yards, which I conclude will be speedily replaced.

I have not been yet able to collect regular accounts of the killed and wounded in the different ships. Captain Montague is the only officer of his rank who fell in the action. The numbers of both descriptions I hope will prove small, the nature of the service considered; but I have the concern of having to add, on the same subject, that Admiral Graves has received a wound in the arm, and that Rear-Admirals Bowyer and Pasley, and Captain Hutt of the Queen, have each had a leg taken off; they are, however, I have the satisfaction to hear, in a favourable state under those misfortunes. In the captured ships the numbers of killed and wounded appear to be very considerable.

Though I shall have, on the subject of these different actions with the Enemy, distinguished examples hereafter to report, I presume the determined bravery of the several ranks of officers and the ships companies employed under my authority, will have been already sufficiently denoted by the effect of their spirited exertions; and, I trust, I shall be excused for postponing the more detailed narrative of the other transactions of the fleet thereon, for being communicated at a future opportunity; more especially as my first Captain, Sir Roger Curtis, who is charged with this dispatch, will be able to give the farther information the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty may at this time require. It is incumbent on me, nevertheless, now to add, that I am greatly indebted to him for his councils as well as

conduct in every branch of my official duties ; and I have similar assistance, in the late occurrences, to acknowledge of my Second Captain, Sir Andrew Douglas. I am, with great consideration,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,
HOWE.

P. S. The names and force of the captured French ships with the fleet is transmitted herewith.

List of French ships captured on the 1st day of June, 1794.

La Juste	-	-	-	80	Guns.
Sans Pareille	-	-	-	80	
L'America	-	-	-	74	
L'Achille	-	-	-	74	
Northumberland	-	-	-	74	
L'Impetueux	-	-	-	74	
Vengeur	-	-	-	74	sunk almost immediately upon being taken possession of.

N. B. The ship stated to have been captured on the evening of the 28th last month, is said by the prisoners to be the Revolutionaire, of 120 guns.

SUPPLEMENT

TO THE

LONDON GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY

Of WEDNESDAY last, the 11th of JUNE.

*Saturday, June 14.**Admiralty-Office, June 14.*

A LETTER was received yesterday evening from Admiral Earl Howe to Mr. Stephens, dated that day, off Dunnoose, in the Isle of Wight, giving an account of his safe arrival with the six captured French ships of the line, mentioned in his former letter of the 2d instant, and with a great part of his Majesty's fleet under his command, having sent the remainder into Plymouth Sound. The following are the returns of the killed and wounded on board his Majesty's ships, in the actions with the French fleet on the 28th and 29th of May, and the 1st instant; and also of the numbers killed and wounded on board the French ships, captured and sunk on the last-mentioned day.

A return of the killed and wounded on board his Majesty's ships.

SHIPS NAMES.		KILLED.	WOUNDED.		Total.
Seamen, &c.		Marines, or Soldiers,	Seamen, &c.	Marines, or Soldiers.	
Caesar	18	—	37	—	55
Bellerophon	3	1	26	1	31
Leviathan	10	—	32	1	43
Sovereign	11	3	39	5	58
Marlborough	24	5	76	14	119
Defence	14	4	29	10	57
Impregnable	7	—	24	—	31
Tremendous	2	1	6	2	11
Barfleur	8	1	22	3	34

B 2

*Culloden

SHIPS NAMES.	KILLED.	WOUNDED.	TOTAL.
*Culloden	—	—	—
Invincible	9	5	45
Gibraltar	1	1	14
The Charlotte	13	1	43
† Brunswick, parted company on the 1st of June.			
Valiant	1	1	11
Queen	30	6	103
Orion	5	—	29
Ramillies	2	—	9
Alfred	—	—	8
Ruffel	7	1	34
Royal George	18	2	92
Montagu	4	—	17
Majestic	3	—	8
Glory	13	—	52
Thunderer, none killed or wounded.			
‡ Audacious, parted company in the night of the 28th of May.			
Grand Total	203	32	578
			91
			904

Names

* By a separate return it appears, that she had 2 men killed, and Mr. Tristram Whitter, the 3d Lieutenant, and 4 men wounded.

† The return, since she came to Spithead, is as follows, viz.

SEAMEN.

<i>Killed.</i>	<i>Wounded.</i>
1 Master's Mate	1 Captain
1 Midshipman	1 Lieutenant
30 Seamen	1 Midshipman
	91 Seamen
32	94

Names of officers and petty-officers killed and wounded.

Mr. Thomas Dalton, master's mate,	Killed
Mr. James Lucas, midshipman,	Ditto
Captain John Hervey	Wounded
Lieutenant Rowland Bevan,	Ditto
Mr. — Hurdis, midshipman	Ditto

SOLDIERS (29th Regiment.)

<i>Killed.</i>	<i>Wounded.</i>
1 Captain	1 Ensign
11 Non-commissioned officers and privates	19 Non-commissioned officers and privates
12	20

Names of the officers killed and wounded.

Captain Alexander Saunders,	Killed
Ensign Harcourt Vernon,	Wounded

‡ The return of killed and wounded has already been published in the Gazette of the 7th instant.

Names of the officers killed and wounded on board his Majesty's ships.

<i>Ships Names.</i>	<i>Officers Names.</i>	<i>Qualities.</i>
Royal Sovereign	Mr. William Ivey	Midshipman
Marlborough	- Abraham Nelham	Ditto
Defence	- William Webster	Master
	Joseph Fitzpatrick	Boatswain
Impregnable	- David Caird	Master
Tremendous	Francis Ross	1st. Lieutenant
The Charlotte	R. Rawlence	7th Ditto
	John Neville	Lieut. Queen's Reg.
Queen	- Wm. Mitchell	Master
Royal George	- George Heigham	8th Lieutenant
	John Hughes	Midshipman
Montagu	- James Montagu, Esq.	Captain
Glory	- Mr. George Metcalfe	Master
	David Greig	Midshipman

WOUNDED, and unable to come to quarters.

Bellerophon	- Thomas Pasley, Esq.	Rear Adm. of White
	- ~~Smith~~	Capt. of Marines
	Mr. Chapman	Boatswain
Leviathan	- Mr. Glen	Midshipman
Royal Sovereign	Thomas Graves, Esq.	Admiral of Blue
	Mr. C. Money	Capt. of Marines
	Mr. S. Mitchell	Lieutenant of Ditto
Marlborough	- Hon. G. Berkley	Captain
	Mr. A. Ruddack	2d Lieutenant
	M. Seymour	5th Ditto
	Fitzgerald	Midshipman
	Shorland	- Ditto
	Linthorne	- Ditto
	Clarges	- Ditto
	M. Pardoe	Master's Mate
Defence	- J. Elliott	Ditto
	Boycott	- Ensign, Queen's Reg.
Impregnable	- W. Buller	Lieutenant
	Patterillo	- Boatswain

An account of the numbers killed and wounded on board the French ships, captured and sunk on the 1st of June, 1794.

<i>Killed.</i>		<i>Wounded.</i>
Le Juste	100	145
Sans Pareil	260	120
L'Amerique	134	110
L'Achilles	36	30
Northumberland	60	100
L'Impetueux	100	75
	<u>690</u>	<u>580</u>

Le Vengeur, 320 sunk.

Le Jacobin, sunk in action, not a man saved.

Barfleur

SHIPS NAMES.	OFFICERS NAMES.	QUALITIES.
Barfleur -	George Bowyer, Esq.	Rear-Adm. of White
	Mr. W. Prowse	6th Lieutenant
	Fogo -	Midshipman
	Clemons	Ditto
Queen Charlotte	J. Holland	Ditto
Queen -	John Hutt, Esq.	Captain
	Mr. Dawes -	2d Lieut. since dead
	Lawrie	6th Ditto
	G. Crimes	Acting Ditto
	Kinnier	Midshipman
Russell -	Stewart	Ditto
	Kelly -	Ditto
	Douglas	Boatswain
Royal George -	J. Ireland	2d Lieutenant
	J. Balmbrough	Master
	Boys -	Midshipman
	Pearce	Ditto
Montagu -	Hon. Mr. Bennett	Ditto
	Mr. T. Moore	Ditto

The 2d Captain, Sir Andrew Douglas, of the Queen Charlotte, was wounded, but resumed his station on deck during the further continuance of the action on the 1st instant.

HOWE.

LONDON GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY,

SATURDAY, JUNE 21.

Admiralty Office, June 21.

A letter, of which the following is a copy, from Admiral Earl Howe to Mr. Stephens, supplementary to his Lordship's letter of the 2d inst. published in the London Gazette Extraordinary of the 11th, was received last night.

In the extract of the journal herewith inclosed, the proceedings of the fleet are stated from the time of leaving St. Helen's, on the 2d of last month, to that of the first discovery of the French fleet on the 28th of the same. For the farther information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, I have now therefore to relate the subsequent transactions not already communicated in my dispatch of the 2d inst. to be delivered by my First Captain, Sir Roger Curtis.

I

Early

Early on the morning of the 28th, the enemy were discovered by the advanced frigates, far distant on the weather-bow. The wind then fresh from the S. by W. with a very rough sea.

They came down, for some time, in a loose order, seemingly unapprised that they had the British fleet in view. After hauling to the wind when they came nearer, they were some hours before they could completely form in regular order of battle upon the star-board tack; the British fleet continuing as before in the order of sailing.

The time required for the Enemy to perfect their disposition, had facilitated the nearer approach of his Majesty's fleet to them, and for the separately appointed and detached part of it, commanded by Rear-Admiral Pasley, to be placed more advantageously for making an impression on their rear.

The signals denoting that intention being made, the Rear-Admiral, near upon the close of day, led his division on with peculiar firmness, and attacked a three-decked ship, (the Revolutionaire) the sternmost in the Enemy's line.

Making known soon after that he had a topmast disabled, assistance was directed to be given to him in that situation. The quick approach of night only allowed me to observe, that Lord Hugh Seymour Conway in the Leviathan, with equal good judgement and determined courage, pushed up alongside of the three-decked French ship, and was supported, as it appeared, by Captain Parker, of the Audacious, in the most spirited manner.

The darkness which now prevailed did not admit of my making any more accurate observations on the conduct of those ships and others concerned in the same service; but I have since learnt, that the Leviathan stretched on farther a-head, for bringing the second ship from the enemy's rear to action, as soon as her former station could be occupied by a succeeding British ship; also that the three-decked ship in the enemy's rear as aforesaid, being unsustained by their other ships,
struck

struck to the Audacious, and that they parted company together soon after.

The two opponent fleets continued on the starboard tack, in a parallel direction, the Enemy still to windward the remainder of the night. The British fleet appearing in the morning of the 29th, when in order of battle, to be far enough advanced for the ships in the van to make some farther impression on the Enemy's rear, was tacked in succession with that intent.

The Enemy wore hereupon from van to rear, and continued edging down in line a-head to engage the van of the British fleet; when arrived at such distance as to be just able to reach our most advanced ships, their headmost ships, as they came successively into the wake of their respective seconds a-head, opened with that distant fire upon the headmost ship of the British van. The signal for passing through their line, made when the fleet tacked before, was then renewed.

It could not be for some time seen, through the fire from the two fleets in the van, to what extent that signal was complied with. But as the smoke at intervals dispersed, it was observed that the *Cæsar*, the leading ships of the British van, after being about on the starboard tack, and come abreast of the *Queen Charlotte*, had not kept to the wind: and that the appointed movement would consequently be liable to fail of the proposed effect.

The *Queen Charlotte* therefore immediately tacked; and, followed by the *Bellerophon*, her second aftern, and soon joined by the *Leviathan*, passed through in the action, between the fifth and sixth ships in the rear of the enemy's line. She was put about again on the larboard tack forthwith, after the Enemy, in preparation for renewing the action with the advantage of that weathermost situation.

The rest of the British fleet being at this time passing to leeward, and without the sternmost ships, mostly of the French line, the Enemy wore again to the eastward in succession for succouring the disabled ships of their rear; which intention, by reason of the then disunited
state

state of the fleet, and having no more than the two crippled ships, the Bellerophon and Leviathan, at that time near me, I was unable to obstruct.

The Enemy having succeeded in that operation, wore round again, after some distant cannonading of the nearest British ships, occasionally returned, and stood away in order of battle on the larboard tack, followed by the British fleet, in the same order (but with the weather-gage retained) as soon as the ships coming forward to close with the Queen Charlotte were suitably arranged.

The fleets remained separated some few miles in view at times on the intermission of a thick fog, which lasted most part of the two next days.

The Commander of a fleet, their Lordships know, is unavoidably so confined in his view of the occurrences in time of battle, as to be little capable of rendering personal testimony to the meritorious service of officers who have profited, in a greater extent, by the opportunities to distinguish themselves on such occasions.

To discharge this part of my public duty, reports were called for from the flag officers of the fleet, for supplying the defects of my observance, under the limited circumstances above-mentioned. Those officers, therefore, who have such particular claim to my attention, are the Admirals Graves and Sir Alexander Hood; the Rear Admirals Bowyer, Gardner, and Pasley; the Captains Lord Hugh Seymour Conway, Pakenham, Berkeley, Gambier, John Harvey, Payne, Parker, Henry Harvey, Pringle, Duckworth, and Elphinstone. Special notice is also due of the Captains Nichols, of the Sovereign, and Hope, of the Bellerophon, who became charged with and well conducted those ships, when the wounded flag officers, under whom they respectively served therein, were no longer able to remain at their posts; and the Lieutenants Monckton, of the Marlborough, and Donnelly, of the Montague, in similar situations. These selections, however, should not be construed to the disadvantage of other Commanders, who may have been equally de-

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serving

serving of the approbation of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, although I am not enabled to make a particular statement of their merits.

To the reports from the flag officers are added those required from the several captains of the fleet ; whereby their Lordships will become more particularly acquainted with the meritorious services of the several commanders, and animated intrepidity of their subordinate officers and ships companies, to which the defeat of the enemy, with every advantage of situation and circumstance in their favour, is truly to be ascribed. To the like purport I beg my testimony in behalf of the officers and company of every description in the Queen Charlotte, may be accepted.

HOUSE OF COMMONS,

MONDAY, JUNE 16.

ADMIRAL EARL HOWE.

Mr. Secretary DUNDAS, pursuant to the notice he had given of moving for a vote of thanks to Earl Howe, and the other Admirals, Officers, and Seamen of the British fleet, entered into a very strong eulogium on the noble Earl's conduct. He called the victory lately obtained over the French navy, one of the most brilliant actions that ever the page of history recorded: it was a victory so brilliant and so signal, that the enemy had not the pretence to say that they were overpowered by a superior force. What his own feelings were upon the occasion, he had not language sufficiently adequate to do justice to; and what the feelings of the public were on this most glorious event, might be read in the general expressions of joy throughout the kingdom. Never was an action fought with greater bravery; never was the skill of the noble Earl so admirably exemplified, or so successfully put into practice. His manœuvres were of the most masterly kind, and his courage did honour to his profession. It frequently happened in naval engagements, that the admirals had to blame the officers, and the officers the admirals; but on the late occasion, the admirals, officers, and men, seemed to be animated with one soul, to be fired with the same ardour, and to be impelled by one motive to action. This brilliant victory was singular in one respect, that no one man had to call another to account for his conduct. The lowest seaman in the fleet looked upon himself on that day as the conqueror of the enemy. What demanded the greatest possible commendation, was the national humanity that had been evinced; for scarcely had the minds of the men subsided from that degree of heat and fierceness that of necessity must be produced under such circumstances, when, according to the first dispatch

that was sent home by the noble Earl, they used the utmost exertions to save the lives of the men on board the sinking ships of the enemy. " Let any man (exclaimed Mr. Dundas) contrast this conduct with the decree of another nation, the object of which is, that no quarter is to be shewn!" Mr. Dundas said, he should not dwell longer upon the subject, because what he could say would by no means add to the merit of the noble Earl. There was, however, one circumstance that he begged leave to state: He happened to be present at a conversation that took place about a year ago, between his Majesty's Ministers and the gallant Earl, who surprised him on account of the eagerness that he displayed at his time of life, and the keenness and fire with which he appeared to be animated. His great wish was to meet the enemy, which he had so completely conquered. But the reason why he mentioned this circumstance was to prove, that if any suspicion had been entertained that the noble Earl declined to meet the French fleet, it was totally void of foundation; for he would assert, that the conduct of the noble and gallant Admiral was as conspicuous every day since he took the command of the fleet, as it was in the engagement that took place on the first of June. It was also particularly worthy of observation, that the naval state of this country at present, considered in point of force, and considered in point of the skill of the commanders, and the bravery of the men, was never so great or powerful in any period of our history.— During the whole course of the war we had lost but three ships of inferior force: on the other hand, we had captured not less than 118 of the enemy's ships, besides those that we sunk and destroyed. It would be needless for him to say more upon the present occasion, as he had not the smallest shadow of doubt, but that every Member in that House would give his most hearty concurrence to the resolution that he had the honour to submit.

Mr. Dundas concluded with moving, That the thanks of this House be given to Admiral Earl Howe,
for

for his able and gallant conduct in the most brilliant and decisive victory obtained over the French fleet, on the first day of this instant June, by the fleet under his command.

That the thanks of this House be given to Admiral Graves, Admiral Sir Alexander Hood, Knight of the most Honourable Order of the Bath, Rear Admiral Bowyer, Rear Admiral Caldwell, Rear Admiral Gardner, Rear Admiral Pasley, and Sir Roger Curtis, Knt. and to the several Captains and Officers of the fleet under the command of Admiral Earl Howe, for their bravery and gallant conduct on the said most glorious occasion; and that Admiral Earl Howe do signify the same to them.

That this House doth highly approve of, and acknowledge the services of the Seamen, Marines, and Soldiers, on board the ships under the command of Admiral Earl Howe, in the late glorious victory over the French fleet; and that the Captains of the several ships do signify the same to their respective crews, and do thank them for their gallant behaviour.

Mr. Fox expressed, in the warmest terms that his heart could suggest; his entire concurrence with the motion; for, however he might have differed with the noble Earl, who was the object of it, in political questions, on that great man's military and naval talents he had ever entertained but one opinion, viz. that they had been ever such as set enmity at defiance, and made silence the utmost effort of malignity. As to the suggestion that might have escaped ignorant people, impatient for events which were not to be commanded, and who, when an Admiral went to sea, expected him to bring into British ports a French fleet in triumph, he, for his part, despised them; and therefore, when Lord Howe had failed of getting up with the French fleet on a former occasion, he was in his own mind convinced, that it was because it was IMPOSSIBLE to get up with them; had it been possible, the noble Admiral would have done it, for in all times he had maintained one uniform reputation, indisputable for skill, and indisputable

disputable for spirit. He wished that the Right Hon. Secretary had confined his observations merely to Lord Howe, and not, under convoy, as it were, of that great man's name, carry encomiums on the conduct of Administration, or tack to the present account the ships taken on another; he would not, however, suffer that to detract from the opinion he meant to offer, or animadvert on any part of the Right Honourable Gentleman's speech, lest it should subject his sentiments as to the late glorious victory to ambiguous or equivocal construction.

Mr. Fox then entered into a strain of warm encomium and applause of the victory of his Lordship, which he said was not only decisive, and magnificent in the whole, and uniform in all its parts, and, above all, crowned with humanity, the inseparable companion of valour, but was as important in its consequences, as it was brilliant in acquisition: and brilliant above all victories, he said, it would be, if Ministers would turn it to the view of obtaining a just and honourable peace, instead of making it the pretext of persisting in a fruitless and ruinous war. On the whole, he declared, that he never had given his assent to the thanks of that House with more heartfelt pleasure, or with more irresistible impulse from his reason, than he should then do to the noble Admiral, who, after a long life which would have rendered any man illustrious, had caught new and greater laurels, and added even to the resplendence of his fame.

Mr. Fox added, that he firmly believed there never was an event in British History on which the rejoicings were more heartfelt, or so unanimous.

He was followed by

Mr. STANLEY and Mr. ROBINSON, who were determined not to give a silent vote on so glorious an event.

The question was then put, and carried *nem. con.*

Mr. DUNDAS then rose, and after having, in terms the most pathetic, deplored the death of Captain Montagu, who had fallen in the action, informed the House, that

that he had a motion to offer respecting him, which, he said, had been made before in similar circumstances, viz.

That an humble address be presented to his Majesty, humbly desiring that his Majesty will be pleased to give directions that a monument be erected in the Collegiate Church of Saint Peter's, Westminster, to the memory of Capt. James Montagu, of his Majesty's ship Montagu, who fell gloriously in the naval engagement of the first of June, when a decisive victory was obtained by Admiral Earl Howe over the French fleet; and to assure his Majesty, that this house will make good the expence attending the same.

This motion was also granted *nem com.*

HOUSE OF PEERS,

FRIDAY, JUNE 13.

EARL HOWE.

Lord GRENVILLE rose, he said, in consequence of the notice which he had the honour of giving their Lordships on Wednesday, of his intention of moving the thanks of their Lordships to Lord Howe. This was a subject upon which he was sure such perfect unanimity must prevail, any attempt on his part to expatiate upon the circumstances attending the late glorious victory obtained by his Majesty's fleet under the command of that able and gallant Admiral, would be perfectly unnecessary. He could not, however, avoid saying, that when all the circumstances of the late engagement were considered, it would be found to be one of the most glorious to this country of any that are to be found in its naval history; for, exclusive of that determined courage which has always characterised the English seamen, there was a degree of skill and science displayed by the noble Lord that never was exceeded upon any former occasion. Thus much his feelings had prompted

prompted him to say; and he should conclude with moving,

That the thanks of the House be given to Admiral Earl Howe, for the important services rendered to his Country by his able and gallant conduct in the victory obtained by the fleet under his command, over the French fleet, on the first of June, 1794.

That the thanks of this House be given to Admiral Graves, Admiral Sir Alexander Hood, K. B. Rear Admiral Bowyer, Rear Admiral Caldwell, Rear Admiral Gardner, Rear Admiral Pasley, and Sir Roger Curtis, Knight, and to the several Captains and Officers of the fleet under the command of Admiral Earl Howe, for their bravery and gallant conduct on the said most glorious occasion; and that Admiral Earl Howe do signify the same to them.

That the House does highly approve of the conduct of the Seamen, Soldiers, and Marines, on board the fleet; and that the officers of their respective ships do communicate the same to them: And,

That the Lord Chancellor do communicate the thanks of the House to Earl Howe.

Lord Grenville said, that with respect to this last motion, he wished to observe, that it certainly would be more gratifying to the House to have an opportunity of declaring their sentiments to the noble Admiral personally in his place, but the present situation of affairs would render his absence from the fleet extremely inconvenient; and therefore he thought it would be better to have the thanks of the House transmitted by the Lord Chancellor.

The DUKE of GRAFTON said, he knew that the orders of the House did not require that any motion should be seconded: if they did, he should have been zealous to have the honour of standing forward upon this occasion. He could not, however, avoid saying a few words upon this subject. He had had the honour of living in habits of the greatest intimacy and friendship with the noble Admiral for a period of above thirty-five years; and during that whole time, he had

formed but one opinion of him, which was, that, exclusive of his valuable qualities as a man, he was most eminently distinguished as a statesman, a seaman, and a hero. If he were to attempt, upon this occasion, to call to the recollection of the House the various important services performed by the noble Lord for his country, his want of abilities to describe them might, perhaps, take from the lustre which belonged to them: he could not, however, avoid just mentioning some of the many glorious exploits performed by the noble Lord, which must for ever ensure to him the gratitude of his country. The skill and bravery displayed by him in the war before the last, when he brought the *Magnanime*, which he then commanded, close to a fort on the isle of Rhé and silenced it, was an act which, at that time, excited the admiration of the whole kingdom. When afterwards he acted, together with the late Admiral Keppel, under the celebrated Lord Hawke, in the engagement on the coast of France with Monsieur de Conflans, he conducted himself in such a manner as to receive from Lord Hawke the most distinguished marks of approbation. Passing over a variety of other important services, he should come to the period when Lord Howe had a command in America last war; and here he would venture to say, that if his conduct on that service was tried by the tests of truth and candour, the result would be highly to his honour. He came now to a circumstance which excited the astonishment and admiration of all Europe, and was alone sufficient to rank him among the first seamen this country ever produced—he meant, the relief of Gibraltar, in the face of the combined fleets of France and Spain, which were at that time more in number by one third than his own. It was upon this occasion that the great Frederick of Prussia paid his tribute of approbation to Lord Howe, in a letter which he sent to him through the medium of his Minister at this Court. If any more was necessary to establish the character of this gallant Admiral, it only remained to mention his last glorious victory, by which the naval superiority of England was clearly ascertained.

His Grace said, he was sure there was not one noble Lord in that House—nay, more, that there was not one true Briton, who did not feel the utmost gratitude to the noble Lord for his important services; and if it could be said of any man, it might be said of him, “ He may read his history in a nation’s eyes.”

The Duke of BEDFORD said, he could not resist the strong impulse which he felt to join in congratulation with the rest of his countrymen to the noble Lord. It was impossible for any one to feel more strongly than he did the important service rendered by that gallant Admiral to his country by his late victory—He rejoiced at it the more, as he hoped it would point out to Ministers, that the sea was the proper element upon which to exert the force of England, because there it would always be crowned with success—He rejoiced at it also, because he hoped it would tend in a very considerable degree to accelerate the restoration of the blessings of peace.

Lord LAUDERDALE said, that he felt himself bound to say a few words, to prevent any misconception of what had fallen from him when the Secretary of State gave notice of this Motion—he was afraid he might be supposed to have intimated something like an idea of opposing this Motion, than which nothing could be farther from his intention. The conduct of the Noble Lord who was the subject of this Motion, had been such as to render it impossible for an idea of that kind to enter into the contemplation of any man in that House, or in the Kingdom. So far from opposing, he wished to be among the foremost in congratulating the Country, in congratulating the Noble Admiral, upon the glorious event. Whether, considering the service upon which Lord Howe was sent, and the immense importance it was of to this Country, a sufficient force had been allowed him, was a point which he would not then consider; but even if the force were insufficient, however blame might attach elsewhere, it must tend to increase the glory obtained by the Noble Lord.—He hoped that Ministers would now be convinced, that
while

while England exerted herself at sea, she was invincible; and that while the war continued, their attention would be turned to that object, and that they would no longer follow up their chimerical project of conquering France by land. Wherever the force of this Country had been employed for proper objects, it had been successful: in the East Indies, in the West Indies, and on the Ocean, our progress was marked with victory; but when we attempted to subvert the internal Government of France, by attacking her by land, we were exposed to all the checks and mortifications that must necessarily attend so wild a scheme.

Viscount SYDNEY said, his intimate knowledge of, and sincere friendship for the Noble Admiral, would not permit him to give a silent vote upon this subject. Great and important as the service was which had been rendered by the Noble Lord to his Country, it did not exceed his expectation; because he was sure, that whenever the opportunity offered, that Noble Person would maintain the honour of England and his own reputation. He agreed with those who thought this victory would tend to accelerate a peace. The way to obtain peace was beating the enemy by sea and land, and not by encouraging them, by endeavouring to convince them that we were exhausted, and unable to carry on the war.

The DUKE of CLARENCE said, that after so many Noble Lords had stated their sentiments upon this subject, the House would forgive him if he trespassed a few moments upon their attention—By the late glorious victory obtained by Lord Howe, the superiority of the English was established, and he hoped would remain so for ever.—He could not avoid observing, that in the two last wars, as well as upon the present occasion, when the fleets of England and France met upon equal terms, the superior skill and steadiness of the English were always manifested: this assertion was proved by three great naval victories; the first in the war before the last, when Lord Hawke gained so glorious a victory over M. de Conflans; the second in the last war, when

Lord Rodney, on the memorable 12th of April, so completely defeated the French in the West Indies; and the third was the instance which they were then celebrating. His Royal Highness concluded, by giving his most hearty approbation to the Motion.

The several Motions were then put and carried *nemine dissente.*

HOUSE OF PEERS,

FRIDAY, JUNE 20.

The LORD CHANCELLOR reported to the House, Earl Howe's Answer to the Thanks of the House of Lords :

“ MY LORD,

“ Acknowledging my obligations in respect of the
 “ very flattering terms in which your Lordship has
 “ been pleased to make known to me the highly
 “ esteemed honour conferred upon me by the unani-
 “ mous Resolution of Thanks of the House of Lords,
 “ signified in your letter of the 14th instant, I am to
 “ entreat that you will have the further goodness to
 “ assure their Lordships of the deep impression I shall
 “ ever retain of their condescending notice.

“ The merit I would assume on this occasion, con-
 “ sists in my good fortune, inasmuch as I had the
 “ chief command, when so many resolute principal
 “ and subordinate Officers, as well as brave Men
 “ serving under their orders, were employed at that
 “ time in the Fleet; and I must add, that if there is
 “ cause for triumph in the late defeat of the Enemy at
 “ sea, it is truly the triumph of the British Sailors,
 “ whose animated and persevering courage, I believe,
 “ has in no instance ever been exceeded. I shall,
 “ therefore, have great increase of happiness in obey-
 “ ing the Commands of the House of Lords, by com-
 “ municating to those several descriptions of persons
 “ the

“ the sense their Lordships have deigned to express of
“ their good conduct.

“ I have the honour to remain,

“ With the greatest respect,

“ My Lord,

“ Your Lordship's most obedient humble servant,

“ HOWE.

“ *The Queen Charlotte, at Spithead,*

“ *the 18th day of June, 1794.*”

LE MESURIER, MAYOR,

JUNE, 19, 1794.

A Common Council was yesterday held in the Chamber of the Guildhall of the City of London, where the following Resolutions were passed:—

Resolved unanimously, That the Thanks of this Court be given to the Right Hon. EARL HOWE, Admiral of the White, Vice-Admiral of England, and Commander of his Majesty's Fleet in the Channel, and the Officers and Sailors under his command, for the glorious and important victory obtained by them over the French Fleet, on the 28th and 29th of May, and the 1st of this month.

Resolved unanimously, That the Freedom of this City be presented to the Right Hon. Earl Howe, Admiral of the White, Vice-Admiral of England, and Commander of his Majesty's Fleet in the Channel, in testimony of the grateful sense this Court entertains of the signal and important victory obtained by him on the 28th and 29th of May, and 1st of this instant June, over the French Fleet, wherein great part of their Squadron were either taken or destroyed.

Resolved unanimously, That the said Freedom of this City be presented to the Right Hon. Earl Howe, in a Gold Box of the value of One Hundred Guineas,
and

and that the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor be requested to provide the Gold Box on the occasion.

Resolved unanimously, That in consideration of the very gallant conduct of Seamen and Soldiers who served on board the British Fleet under the command of Admiral Earl Howe, on the 28th and 29th of May, and 1st of June, 1794; and in token of gratitude of this Court to them, Mr. Chamberlain be directed to pay into the hands of Mr. Thomas Tayler, the Master of Lloyd's Coffee-house, the sum of 500l. for the relief of the wounded petty Officers, Seamen, and Soldiers; and also the Widows and Children of those who so gloriously fell on those days, in the service of their King and Country.

RIX.

The Freedom of the Corporation of the Borough of Portsmouth was presented to Earl Howe, on Monday, June 16th. The Mayor and Aldermen being assembled at the Town Hall, proceeded in their Robes to the Governor's House, where the Freedom was presented to his Lordship by the Mayor, Sir John Carter, in the following manner:

" MY LORD,

" We, the Mayor and Aldermen of the ancient
 " Borough of Portsmouth, entreat your Lordship to
 " accept the Freedom of this Corporation. This is
 " offered as a testimony of the high esteem we entertain
 " towards your Lordship's person and character. We for-
 " bear, however, to enter further upon the subject, lest
 " in so doing we might give offence to the diffidence
 " of your temper, and also lest, when we explain our
 " sentiments, we might be thought to use the language
 " of compliment. For these reasons, we the rather
 " chuse to leave our feelings, on the present occasion,
 " to be conceived by the mind susceptible of gratitude
 " in a degree equal to that with which our hearts stand
 " impressed. Accept then, my Lord, as an acknow-
 " ledgement

“ ledgement for your eminent services, a short but
“ very comprehensive sentence—My Lord, we thank
“ you.

“ We beg leave at the same time to mention out
“ warmest acknowledgements to the Officers and Men
“ under your Lordship’s command, for their spirited
“ and highly meritorious exertions.”

To which his Lordship was pleased to reply :

“ GENTLEMEN,

“ Knowing the deliberation with which you select
“ the persons on whom you confer this honourable dis-
“ tinction, I cannot but be much flattered by it.

“ I receive it as the Representative of the able
“ Officers and brave Men of the Fleet, by whose cou-
“ rageous behaviour the success it is the object of this
“ transaction to commemorate, was obtained.”

PUBLIC THANKS

OF EARL HOWE

TO THE DIFFERENT SHIPS COMPANIES, FOR THEIR
CONDUCT IN THE ACTIONS WITH THE
FRENCH FLEET.

The Charlotte, Spithead, June 13, 1794.

The Admiral cannot omit the very grateful part of his duty, that requires these his Public Acknowledgements to be made, of the highly distinguished examples of resolution, spirit, and perseverance, which have been testified by every description of Officers, Seamen, and Military Corps in the Ships of the Fleet, during the several actions with the Enemy on the 28th and 29th of May, and the 1st of the present month; and which cannot be better affirmed than by reference to their effects on those occasions.

Nor is the merit of the Seamen of the Fleet less to be applauded, in their active and unwearied exertions
to

to put their ships in a state for service, so speedily as it was completed after those actions had ceased.

(Signed)

HOWE.

The above given out in Public Orders to the Ships under the direction of Rear Admiral Caldwell, at Plymouth.

PUBLIC ORDERS.

Queen Charlotte, at Spithead, June 20, 1794.

The Commander in Chief is directed, pursuant to the King's pleasure, to make known to the Fleet, that his Majesty has deigned to express the highest satisfaction in the account reported by the Admiral, of the bravery and gallant behaviour of the Officers and Men serving in the Fleet, in the actions with the Enemy, on the 28th and 29th of May, and 1st of the present month; and is charged, in the manner judged most proper, to acquaint all the Officers and Men (more especially, the Admirals Graves and Sir Alexander Hood, K. B. the Rear-Admirals Bowyer, Caldwell, Gardner, and Pasley; and Sir Roger Curtis, first Captain to the Commander in Chief) with the just sense his Majesty entertains of the zeal and courage they have so eminently exerted in his service on those occasions.

The Commander in Chief has also been required by the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and by the Honourable the Commons of Great Britain, in Parliament assembled, to convey the Thanks of their respective Houses to the Flag-officers already named as above; and to the Captains and other Officers of the Fleet, for their bravery and gallant conduct, with their approval and acknowledgement of the services of the seamen, marines, and soldiers, serving in the said Fleet, on the several actions with the Enemy as aforesaid.

The Commander in Chief, with the highest sense of pleasure, communicates in this manner, such approval and acknowledgement as above stated, to the said Officers

Officers and ships Companies ; and desires in consequence, that the Captains of the different ships will signify the same to their respective Officers and Crews accordingly.

He is moreover to make known at this time, that in a Court of Common Council, holden in the Chamber of the Guildhall of the City of London, the 18th instant, on consideration (as it is expressed) of the very gallant conduct of the seamen, &c. who served on board the fleet in the said actions, and in token of the gratitude of the said Court of Common Council, the Chamberlain of the City is directed to pay into the hands of Mr. Thomas Taylor, the Master of Lloyd's Coffee-house, the sum of Five Hundred Pounds, for the relief of the wounded Warrant Officers, Petty Officers, Seamen, &c. and also the Widows and Children of those who so gloriously fell on the days before-mentioned, in the service of their King and Country.

It is likewise to be noticed, that a very considerable sum of money had been previously subscribed (and still increasing in amount) by many respectable and generous private Gentlemen, making their deposits with Mr. Taylor, for the like purposes ; consonant to the tenor of which, the several Captains of the Fleet have been desired to transmit to the said Mr. Taylor, the names of the killed and wounded seamen, marines, and soldiers, with adequate descriptions of the persons entitled to such relief, with all convenient dispatch.

The following Card does such honour to the Corps from whom it came, that we cannot deny ourselves the gratification of laying it before the Public :

“ Plymouth-Dock, Granby-Square, June 16, 1794.

“ The Officers of the Staffordshire Militia present their compliments to Rear-Admiral Caldwell, and the Commanding Officers of those ships which have put into this Port :—They have subscribed upwards of One

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Hundred and Thirty Pounds, to be applied to the use of the Sailors and Marines who were severely wounded in the late actions, and to the Widows of those who were killed, provided there are any in the neighbourhood to whom the money can be easily remitted. They would be extremely obliged by a return of the numbers of the above description, and will esteem it as a favour if the Commanding Officer of each ship will take the trouble of disposing of the proportion of money in the way they shall think most beneficial to the individuals for whom it is intended."

TO THE EDITOR.

Cæsar, at Spithead, June 27, 1794.

" SIR,

" Having seen a paragraph in the public newspapers, reflecting on the character and conduct of Capt. Molloy, of his Majesty's ship *Cæsar*, in the late actions with the French Fleet, we feel it a duty incumbent on us, as Officers and Gentlemen, to say, that his conduct on those several days of the 28th, 29th of May, and the 1st of this present month, was that of a man of the strictest courage, and appeared to those Officers more immediately stationed near his person to be zealous in support of his country, and the British flag.

We are, Sir,

Your most humble servants,

J. Duffield, Capt. Marines.
 Tho. Hopper, 1st Lieut. do.
 B. Dickenson, 1st Lieut. do.
 John Luckey, Master.
 J. Whitby, Lieutenant.
 E. S. Dickson, do.

T. P. Bennitt, Lieut.
 N. C. Jones, do.
 James Cleverly, do.
 John M. Ebdon, do.
 Edw. Hodder, ditto."

FROM

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

Saturday, June 21

ST. JAMES'S, JUNE 20.

THIS day the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor, the Aldermen, Sheriffs, and Common Council of the City of London, waited upon his Majesty (being introduced by the Right Honourable the Marquis of Salisbury, Lord Chamberlain of his Majesty's Household) with the following address, which was read by Sir John Wm. Rose, Knight, Recorder:

To the KING's Most Excellent Majesty;

The humble address of the Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Commons, of the City of London, in Common Council assembled.

Most Gracious Sovereign,

WE your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Commons of the city of London, in Common Council assembled, humbly beg leave to approach your Majesty with our warmest congratulations on the late glorious successes with which it has pleased Divine Providence to bless your Majesty's arms in different quarters of the world, and more especially on the signal victory obtained by the British fleet, under the command of Admiral Earl Howe, over the fleet of the French, on the first of this month.

We have the pleasure of acknowledging, with heartfelt satisfaction, that by the reduction of the principal settlements of the French in the East-Indies, and by the capture of their West-India islands, the most valuable commercial acquisitions have been gained to your Majesty's subjects, at the same time that the commerce of the enemy has been destroyed in those parts. And these advantages are greatly enhanced in our estimation by the amazing rapidity and little bloodshed with which they were accomplished.

We rejoice in seeing your Majesty's arms victorious in the reduction of Bastia, whereby not only the Corsicans are liberated from the tyranny of French Anarchists, but our fleets have acquired commodious harbours in the Mediterranean.

We have viewed with a peculiar satisfaction, the glorious exertions of our brave countrymen, encouraged by the example of their illustrious Commander, and other branches of the Royal Family on the Continent, in which your Majesty's paternal feelings must have participated in an extraordinary degree.

Deeply impressed with the importance of these advantages, we should think ourselves wanting in the duty we owe to your Majesty, under whose mild Government we deem it our greatest happiness to live, were we to delay taking the earliest opportunity of testifying, at the foot of the Throne, our most ardent joy at the late signal victory gained by your Majesty's fleet over that of the Enemy; a victory perhaps unexampled in the annals of the British navy, and which has materially reduced the power of the French at sea; adding security to our wide-extended commerce, and transmitting a most brilliant example of British valour to the latest posterity.

And whilst we thus rejoice in the successes of your Majesty's arms abroad, we desire to express our warmest approbation of the vigilance and zeal of your Majesty's Ministers at home, in repressing the attempts of the Seditious, and those who wickedly aim at the subversion of your Majesty's Government; and assure your Majesty that your faithful Subjects, the Citizens of London, will continue to exert their most constant and earnest endeavours to preserve to themselves and their posterity the secure and permanent enjoyment of the invaluable blessings of the glorious Constitution as established by law.

May these brilliant events convince your Majesty's enemies of the justice of your Majesty's cause, and thereby the blessings of peace be restored to these kingdoms and to Europe on a safe and permanent foundation.

Signed, by Order of Court,

WILLIAM RIX.

To which Address his Majesty was pleased to return the following most gracious Answer:

I receive, with great satisfaction, this dutiful and affectionate Address. The expressions of attachment from my faithful City of London are at all times highly satisfactory to me, and peculiarly on the present conjuncture. Their cordial congratulations on the late glorious victory, obtained by my fleet under Earl Howe, and on the signal successes which have attended my arms in different quarters, and the seasonable assurances of their uniform attachment to our invaluable Constitution, prove how sensible they are of the importance of the contest in which we are engaged, and of the numerous blessings for the preservation of which we have to contend.

The City of London may at all times rely on the continuance of my favour and protection.

F I N I S.